

# **Unified Mine Victims Database: An Important Precondition for the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Mine Victims and their Families**

13th Symposium and Equipment Exhibition

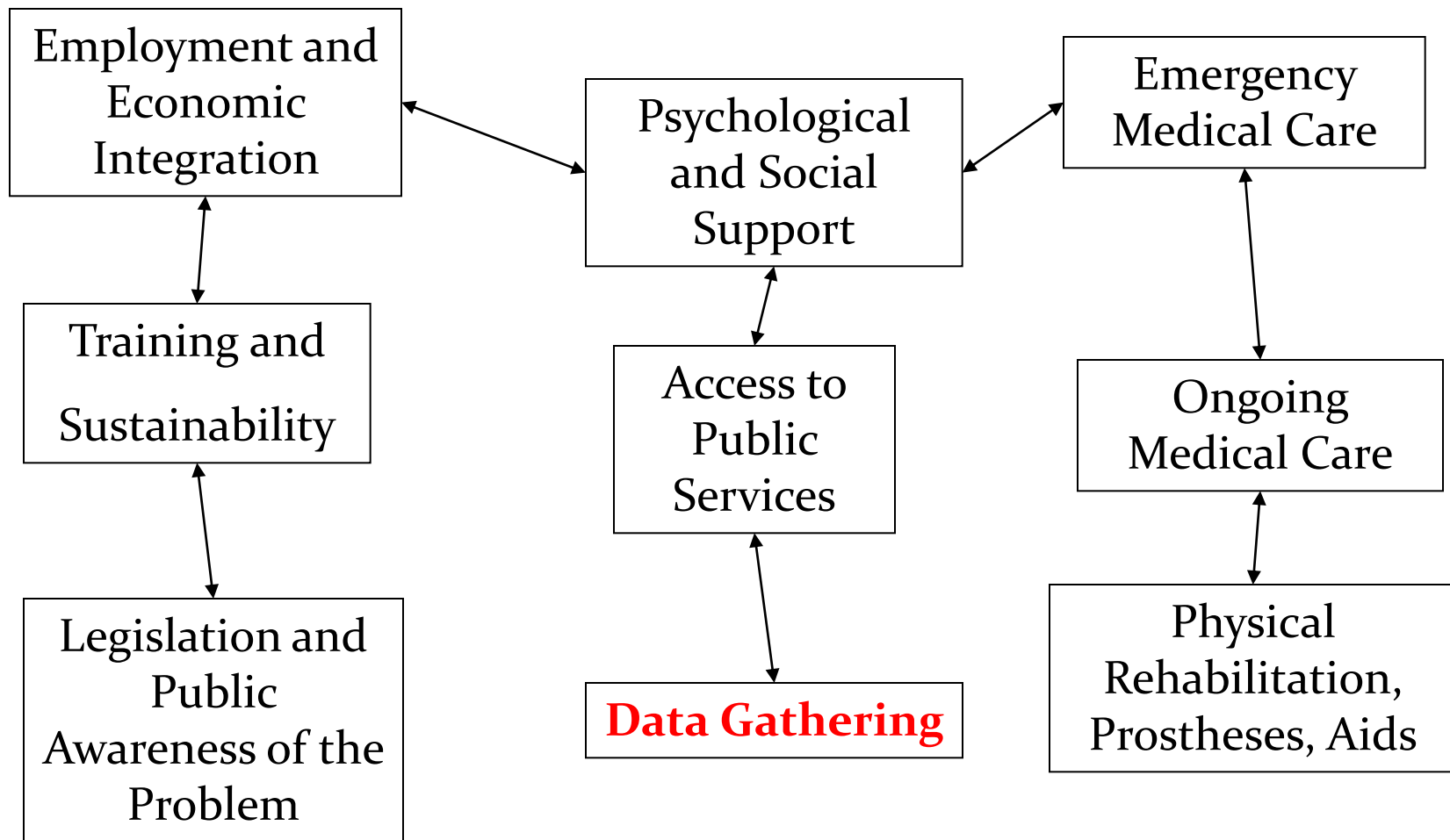
“Mine Action 2016”

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# **The Issue of the Number of ERW Victims in Croatia**

- **1991 to 2016: 1983 persons (lethally: 513)**
- **1996 to 2016: 586 persons (lethally: 200)**
- **Deminers: 122 (lethally: 42)**
- **Younger than 18: 31 (lethally: 6)**

# Key Aspects of ERW Victims Assistance



# Humanitarian-Security Conventions and ERW Victims

1. Mine Ban Treaty (MBT)
2. Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
3. Certain Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) – Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (PV)
  - *mine victim is not only a person who is injured or killed by a mine, but also his or her nuclear family – MBT*
  - *not only direct cluster munitions/UXO victims, but also all those living on the territory contaminated by cluster munitions, i.e. cluster munitions/UXO affected communities - CCM*

# Humanitarian-Security Conventions and ERW Victims Database

- **Maputo Action Plan:** *Each State Party with mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction or control, in a manner that takes into account sex- and age-disaggregated data, will do its utmost to assess the needs of mine victims (...) in order to meet the needs of mine victims...*
- **Dubrovnik Action Plan:** *Collecting all necessary data, on an ongoing basis, disaggregated by sex and age, assessing the needs and priorities of cluster munitions victims (...) and identifying any methodological gaps in the collection of data.*
- **PV Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:** *States Parties are to collect data on victims.*

# Situation in Croatia

- **Challenge:** the available data are partial, not reliable (not updated) and collected using different methodologies and tools. The lack of a unified database and precise knowledge of the needs of victims does not allow for full accomplishment of the victim assistance strategy.
- **Evaluation:** Identification of victims' needs based on a systematic data collection should be executed through an effective coordination between national institutions and development of a long-term strategic plan.
- **Plan:** GOMA and CROMAC initiated the *Unified Database Project*, whose final aim is economic and social reintegration of victims and their families, in particular their (re)-employment, based on relevant education and training necessary for their full socio-economic reintegration.

# *Unified Database Project*

- Developed on desk research of documentation collected since 1996 to present day.
- Future activities will be based on the field research in order to supplement existing information and to obtain more concrete information of the current situations and needs of mine victims.
- The field research will cover all municipalities and counties (both mine-contaminated and mine-free) in order to include all mine victims.
- Due to the sensitivity of this task, it is crucial that the field assessments are completed by institutions/entities with considerable previous experiences and executed by trained researchers.

# *Unified Database Project*

- Institutions/entities and researchers will have to respect general data collection methodology and basic analytical rules.
- This process includes special emphasis on the filed verification and supplement of all available sources with information obtained from victims and their families.
- In order to gather needed information in a systematic and standardized way, institutions/entities will further develop and improve a template questionnaire with a number of identification questions.
- The questionnaire will be filled in by educated researchers and not by respondents themselves, with the purpose of getting systematic and standardized information.



# Conclusion

1. Establishment of the Unified Database should serve as a living testimony of our joint efforts for a full integration of victim assistance into the broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks aimed at protection and improvement of life of Croatia's most vulnerable citizens.
2. Victim assistance and mine clearance are two sides of the same coin. There can be no comprehensive solution of mine problem in any country without genuine continuous engagement on both fronts.

***Thank you!***

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